



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 58

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1013

Senate, March 15, 2007

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS TO MAKE
FORENSIC NURSING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "forensic nursing" means the application of forensic science to
3 the practice of nursing and includes (1) the assessment and treatment
4 of victims and perpetrators of crimes against persons, and (2) the
5 collection and documentation of physical evidence that may contain
6 evidentiary value and be presented in a criminal or civil proceeding in
7 a court of law.

8 (b) Each acute care hospital in this state shall make forensic nursing
9 services available to its patients.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
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PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
UConn Health Ctr.	Various - Cost	45,425	47,900
Criminal Justice, Div.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill is expected to result in a minimal additional cost for the John Dempsey Hospital at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The hospital would incur a one-time cost of \$9,500 in FY 08 to train 10 staff members as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Additionally, it is expected to cost \$47,900 annually to have these trained staff on call and available to be called in twenty-four hours a day. The FY 08 cost for this staffing would be \$35,925, assuming an October 1, 2007 start date.

The Division of Criminal Justice, through its forensic sex evidence exams account, reimburses victims for the cost of medical exams and treatments provided while gathering evidence of sexual assault for prosecution. To the extent that the bill increases the frequency of such collections, the agency would incur additional costs to reimburse victims. In FY 06 a total of 1,140 victims were reimbursed. The average cost of reimbursement is \$900 for adults and \$675 for children.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1013*****AN ACT REQUIRING ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS TO MAKE
FORENSIC NURSING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PATIENTS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires each acute care hospital to make forensic nursing services available to patients. Forensic nursing means applying forensic science to nursing including (1) assessing and treating victims and perpetrators of crimes against persons and (2) collecting and documenting physical evidence that may have evidentiary value for presentation in a civil or criminal proceeding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 7 (03/02/2007)